

INDIA.

Herald Special Report
from London.Famine in Rapid Stride Over a
Large Portion of the Ter-
ritory of Hindostan.Sad Scenes Among a Starv-
ing Population.The Imperial Government Face to Face
with a Ghastly Calamity.The Lives of Many Millions of
People in Danger.

PUBLIC WORKS FOR RELIEF

What the Governor General Thinks—Political
Economy and Red Tape.

GLOOMY FOREBODING OF THE FUTURE.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.
The following special despatch to the
HERALD has been received from our corre-
spondent in the British metropolis:—LONDON, Feb. 23, 1874.
The absorbing interest which attaches to
the reports which have already reached
Europe of the prevalence and progress of
famine in British India induced the despatch,
some time since, to that country of a well
known member of the staff of the *Daily News*,
Mr. Archibald Forbes, the gentleman who had
displayed his professional energy and power
of description to such a remarkable degree
as a correspondent during the period of the
Franco-Prussian war, in 1870.A FIRST REPORT AFTER PERSONAL INSPECTION.
Mr. Forbes' first letter from India, dated in
Calcutta January 13, has been received here
by this evening's mail. Thinking that the
Calcutta press and people were given over-
much to theorizing on the subject of the
causes of the visitation, and being, for this rea-
son, unwilling to tabulate their local reports for
universal use, he determined to visit the dis-
tressed districts in person, and to use his own
eyes and ears in surveying the scene of
misery and hearing the statements of the
inhabitants. He did so, and now ventures to
offer a series of cabinet popular pictures,
which are truthfully painted and of living,
heartfelt import.A PAINFUL DUTY FEELINGLY PERFORMED.
"It is impossible," he says, "to impart the
official statistics and the deductions which
have been founded on them by the Indian
government." He expresses the wish that
his work had been that of writing the story of
fighting during a war campaign; for "in that
the most needs tell of bloodshed and suffering,
but not of women and children stricken down
to death. The ardor of battle and the glow
of victory furnish under such circumstances
a sort of relief to the sad record of pain and
sorrow. Describing a military campaign,
apart from the inspiration which
seizes the correspondent during the progress
of the actual combat, is a duty much
less harrowing to the feelings than that in
which I am now engaged," and he expresses
the hope that he will eventually be enabled to
record, notwithstanding the aspect and facts
of the present situation, the story of famine
averted by wise and timely precaution. In
that event he cannot imagine "the attainment
of a greater or more glorious earthly victory."AREA OF THE FAMINE DISTRICT.
"The scarcity of food," says Mr. Forbes,
"extends and is spreading among the popula-
tion of a wide tract of country running along
the foot of the Himalaya boundaries of
Nepal, on the southern slope, and stretching
from Oude to near Darjeeling, in the Sikkim
territory. These remote districts, removed
from railroads and other sources of easy com-
munication, are difficult of approach.GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF STARVING MILLIONS.
"His Excellency Lord Northbrook informed
me that the existence of this terrible distress
threatens the government most seriously. The
Governor General recognizes fifteen districts,
in addition to provincial territories, compris-
ing a total population of 26,000,000 of people,
which are afflicted either by actual famine or a
distressing scarcity of food. This is not all.
Twelve other districts, containing 14,000,000
of people, are threatened. These latter places
are described as being almost roadless and
without water. The coolies and field laborers
in the more densely populated districts feel
the pinch most, owing to a total absence of
work in the rice fields."The government contemplated, prior to the
outbreak of the distress, the commencement
of public works—the construction of certain
sources for the irrigation of the rice fields
from a canal, the building of the Northern
Bengal Railroad, and, lastly, the embank-
ment of the Gunduck River, a tributary of
the Ganges, which it joins opposite to Patna.
Thirty-two thousand laborers were employed
on the first named work. Their wages werepaid in money, which was exchanged for food
at government stores adjacent.POLITICAL ECONOMY HALT TO REASON.
"The government standpoint in India is to
maintain, as long as may be possible, that it
is called upon to find food only for persons
earning wages. 'All which has been hitherto
done has been done undecisively and precau-
tionally, and I don't know whether there will
be a famine at all,' were Sir George Camp-
bell's words to me on the 11th inst. 'All that
is known,' he continued, 'is that we
have the same preludes with which former
famines have come with the people."Lord Northbrook does not intend to recede
from his hitherto expressed system of policy.
It is curious to read two consecutive sen-
tences in the address of the Governor General
to the Council. 'The exports of food from
Bengal exceed, since the 1st of November,
1873, 90,000 tons; while the government im-
ported, till January 23, 1874, more than
30,000 tons of rice from beyond the seas.
Rice is not so high in price as was antici-
pated.'""Lord Northbrook says that the Executive
Department has arranged for a sufficiency of
food to last till May next, and the storing of a
large reserve to meet contingencies. The official
calculations of quantity are based on the
knowledge of the demands which were made on
the government depots during the prevalence of
famine in former times; but it seems doubt-
ful whether the supply will be adequate just
at present, owing to the facts that during the
periods of the previous afflictions large num-
bers of persons died without asking for relief,
and that the districts which are just now suf-
fering are more remote, the means of trans-
portation growing difficult, and, also, that
there exists a want of food for cattle as well as
for the human beings."GLOOMY FOREBODINGS OF A GHAUSTLY CALAMITY.
Mr. Forbes concludes his report thus:—
"From what I have seen since my arrival in
India I have become convinced—first, that
neither the government nor the people can pre-
cisely describe the actual position or prognos-
ticate the future; second, that the govern-
ment is most fully alive to its responsibility
that the measures which have been taken for
relief will fully cope with the difficulties of
the occasion; third, that the absence of rail-
roads in the remote districts is mostly dreaded,
as the officials are without present means for
the avoidance of the obstacles thus created.
On the whole I entertain a most depressing
conviction of coming calamity, for I have
merely touched a most momentous topic."Hundreds of Thousands of Persons Suffer-
ing from Want of Food—Many
Thousands of Lives in Danger.
LONDON, Feb. 23, 1874.
A special despatch to the Times from Cal-
cutta says 280,000 persons are distressed from
want of food in the districts of Tirhoot and
Bogpore, Presidency of Bengal.The same despatch says it is estimated that
but for the aid furnished by the government
500,000 persons would have perished.

ENGLAND.

Parliamentary Strategy of the Disraeli Minis-
try—A Sudden Prorogation Probable—
Place and Cabinet Patronage.TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.
LONDON, Feb. 23, 1874.
It is said that on the assembling of Parliament
it will be immediately prorogued until the 12th
of March, so that members who have accepted office
from Mr. Disraeli may have the opportunity to go
before their constituents for re-election.It is also said the Queen's speech will not be read
until Parliament reassembles.
Under Secretary of State for India.AN OFFICE OF HONOR, WITH TROUBLE.
Mr. William Hart Dyke has received the appoint-
ment of Patronage Secretary to the Treasury.
Sir Michael E. Hicks-Beach has been appointed
Chief Secretary for Ireland, and Sir Henry Selwin-
Ibbetson Under Secretary for the Home Depart-
ment.Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach is the ninth
baronet of his house. He was born on the 23d of
October, 1837, and represented East Gloucester-
shire in the late Parliament. Sir Henry Selwin-
Ibbetson was born on the 26th of September, 1828,
and sat for West Essex in the late House of Com-
mons. His first wife was eldest daughter and
co-heir of the late Lord Lyndhurst.—ED. HERALD.Called to the Cabinet—Promotion to
the Peerage.
LONDON, Feb. 24—5:30 A. M.
Right Hon. Sir Charles Adair becomes Presi-
dent of the Board of Trade.
Right Hon. Sir John Pakington has been ele-
vated to the peerage, under the title of Baron
Hamilton.Manifesto Against a Mitred Politician.
SARASOTA, via PARIS, Feb. 23, 1874.
M. Quebar and six other Deputies to the Reichstag
from Alsace and Lorraine, have published a
manifesto repudiating Bishop Raes's acknowl-
edgments of the Frankfort Treaty.Movement of Bullion.
LONDON, Feb. 23—6 P. M.
The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank
of England on balance to-day is £124,000.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

Citizen Opposition to National Incorporation.
TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.
PARIS, Feb. 23, 1874.
The citizens of Strasbourg demand of Bishop
Raes the resignation of his seat in the Reichstag
because he has acknowledged the validity of the
Treaty of Frankfurt.

SPAIN.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.
BAYONNE, Feb. 23, 1874.
The Spanish fleet, which ascended the Bilbao
River to Portugalete, has been compelled to put
to sea in consequence of a heavy gale.
It is reported that General Primo Rivera, who
was advancing on the town by land, has also re-
turned, having been deprived of the support of the
fleet.

ROME.

The Prelates of the Church Not Called to the
Vatican.
TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.ROME, Feb. 23, 1874.
The report that Cardinal Antonelli had sent a
circular letter to the bishops, inviting them to
visit the Pope before he died, is pronounced to be
unfounded.

ACHEEN.

Dutch Victory in a Severe Battle.
TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.THE HAGUE, Feb. 23, 1874.
In their last fight the Dutch troops in Achéen
captured an important fort, killing two hundred of
its defenders. The loss to the expedition was
only six killed and fifty-six wounded.

AMUSEMENTS.

Italian Opera—Opening of the Spring

There was a glamour of the Pharaohs' age of
Nileto magnificence at the Academy last night.
The Strakosch Italian Opera Company inaugurated
the spring season of opera with Verdi's remark-
able work, "Aida." We have already criticized the
musical merits of this opera at length and pointed
out its strong points and its weaknesses. Its first
production was the entering wedge into the Rip
Van Winkle policy which has so long characterized
the management of Italian opera in this city.
The brilliancy and historical accuracy of the mise
en scene, rivaling the best efforts of dramatic
managers, who have heretofore claimed the mo-
nopoly of grandeur of stage representation, mark
an epoch in operatic management. The cities of
Thebes and Memphis and the Oriental "Fishes of
Waters" are represented with lifelike effect, as
they existed 4,000 years ago. The costumes are no
less faithful to history. Signor Campanini looks as
if he walked out of the Pyramids, divested of the
mummy's swathing clothes, after a score or so
of centuries' refreshing slumber. Mlle. Tortiani
has the traditional costume of the Ethiopian prin-
cess, such as Bruce or Heke would delight to de-
linate upon, and M. Maurel is the untamed Bedouin,
whose very appearance one must associate with
cannals, burning sands and wandering tribes. A
very charming exception, as far as costuming is
concerned, the seductive attractions of Cleopatra
and Bayadere with the dignity of a Zenobia.
Signor Nannetti's high priest differs little from the
traditional appearance, whether Egyptian, Drui-
dic or Hindoo, of this important personage in
grand opera.The performance last evening was signalized by
many points of excellence, such as marked the
first representations of the opera. Mlle. Tortiani
repeated her very commendable impersonation of
the title rôle, and, considering the fact that she
had more real hard work than any of the other
characters, and that the music of her part called
for unweary exertions, as far as her voice was
concerned, her success is sufficient to stamp her
as an artist of a very high order of talent.
The first aria of the prima donna in the
second scene of the first act, in which the struggle
between love and duty is vividly portrayed; the
stormy and passionate duet in the second act with
the Egyptian king, in which the lovers are torn
asunder and lover in the third act, and the last mem-
orable scene in the tombs beneath the temple, in
which the lovers die, were all performed with a
degree of power and vocal effect that calls for com-
mendation.Miss Cary supplemented her former success in
the trying rôle of Amneris by a wealth of vocal
power, keen appreciation of the varied demands of
the composer and an amount of dramatic excel-
lence in illustrating the baleful effects of jealousy
that made her one of the principal attractions of
the opera.
But to Signor Campanini, despite the fact that
he was laboring under an almost uncontrollable
cough, the music is very brilliant, but at the same
time very fatiguing to the tenor. Especially the
duet in the third act, in which the lovers are torn
asunder and lover in the third act, and the last mem-
orable scene in the tombs beneath the temple, in
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was advancing on the town by land, has also re-
turned, having been deprived of the support of the
fleet.achek was furnished. Mr. Levick played Talkin-
g-horn with becoming reticence and professional
malice. Mr. Walcott was an admirable Sir Leice-
ster, preserving the pomp of the character with-
out a tinge of burlesque. Mr. Whennock gave forcible
expression to the rude and straightforward fidel-
ity of Buckner. Mr. Pateman made an excellent
Guppy. It may safely be put among the list of his
happiest eccentricities. Miss Estelle Mortimer made
her first appearance at this theatre, and acted
prettily and naturally the part of Estelle. Miss
Mary Wells was a very acceptable Mrs. Rounce-
well, and, finally, Miss Rachel Noah made
a very pronounced hit as Joe.
The crossing sweepers. She gave a touching
and truthful performance, also in details and
affecting in its general scope, elaborated with an
abundance of correct feeling; in brief, a produc-
tion that deserves to be called artistic. The scen-
ery was excellent, and the illustrations were
appearing in the original novel being realized with
great fidelity. The play was a success in every im-
portant particular, deriving its central interest from
the definite conception and powerful elaboration
of Janaschek, and additional radiance from the
completeness of the rest of the cast. It will be re-
peated each night this week and on the Saturday
matinee.Musical and Dramatic Notes.
Fechter is on his farm again applying himself to
acres instead of art.
Mme. Nilsson and M. Maurel appear this even-
ing in concert in Boston.
Salvini is on the eve of beginning his Mexican
and South American campaign.By many Mr. Fisher as Don Armado in "Love's
Labor's Lost" is thought to bear a striking resem-
blance to Don Quixote.Mr. P. S. Gilmore has inaugurated a series of
concerts for the benefit of the poor of the city at
the Twenty-second regiment armory.History destined one more season in the United
States, and also to act in Mexico, which is as yet
an untrodden field with her. She likewise has de-
signs on Australia and India.The Metropolitan Theatre was crowded last
evening, as it also was at the matinee. The pro-
gramme was of the usual varied character, so that
its main features would be difficult to name. From
the opening vaudeville, "Luck in a Name," to the
closing pantomime, "The Unlucky Marquis," every-
thing pleased the audience. The object of the
manager and performers being thus reached,
everybody was happy. The same programme will
be repeated to-morrow night.The holiday audience at both performances at
the Olympic Theatre were very large. The most
varied of variety performances was given. Its
range was from Ireland, through the air, to "Old
Kentuck." That is, the performance began with
the pictorial representation of Irish scenery and
musical and dramatic interpretation of Celtic ways,
and ended with the Southern sketch, "Eph's
Dream," the remarkable feat of Lo-Lo, the Flying
Fairy, being the principal of the varieties sand-
wiched between. The principal feature of the
programme was J. W. McAndrews' performance of
the character of Uncle Eph Glosson, the typical
old negro uncle of everybody on the planta-
tion. McAndrews had made a complete study of
the Southern negro character than any other per-
former of his kind.A Paris correspondent says that a short time
ago M. Loyal de Lacy handed the manager of the
Ambigu Comique a drama, named "Le Borgne," or
"The One Eyed," which the manager undertook to
produce, but which subsequently he tried to avoid
producing. All his efforts were vain, and he was
obliged to play one of the worst dramas ever
placed on that or any other stage. Most of the
critics fell upon it tooth and nail; others were dis-
missed by laughter. One critic declared that he
laughed during the whole piece, that he laughed
along the boulevards as he left the theatre, and
he roared all night in bed, and wrote his critique
with tears streaming down his cheeks the next
morning. M. de Lacy, who teaches French at a
young ladies' school, was naturally indignant with
the hostile newspapers, and determined to revenge
himself. There is a French law which lays it down
that if you are attacked in a journal you have the
right to reply at double the length of the
attack. M. Loyal de Lacy therefore sent to the
papers which had assailed his play prose just
double the length of the criticism. The journals
which treated him with refusal, and hence an
attack, if M. Loyal de Lacy proves successful,
there is no knowing where this affair will stop.When quite young a drama of his was treated
much like "Le Borgne," and a celebrated critic
insisted, through several columns, on calling the
unfortunate author M. Loyal (haunch of beef),
though M. Loyal had been christened either
Arthur, Auguste or Anatole. The affair was taken
from court to court, and after several years M.
Loyal triumphed.

THE STAGE.

Lecture by the Hon. Daniel Dougherty.
The subject chosen last night by the distin-
guished Philadelphian to while away some hours
is one that, in all ages, has interested alike the
genial and the ungenial. The stage has played
a small part in the history of civilization, and it
furnishes us with, perhaps, the best and most re-
liable means of judging the intellectual value of
past ages, as well as affording us a standard of
their morality. From whatever standpoint we
look upon the stage, a critical review of
its rise and decadence must ever reveal to us
information as well as amusement, for its true
function has been to act as a mirror for humanity,
reflecting the noble deeds as well as the follies and
frailties of mankind. Mr. Dougherty apologized
for not taking up some other theme more instruc-
tive to the audience, but justified himself on the
score that the people came to be amused rather
than taught. After paying a handsome compli-
ment to intellectual amusement, as a "link that
bound us to the angels—a glimpse of the lost
Eden," he pointed out the antiquity of the stage
and its importance as an aid in educating the
masses at the dawn of civilization; that in the
Greek and Roman times it had been made
the theatre of the highest moral and political
teaching, and that its decadence marked the
corruption of the people under the emperors.
Liberty and the higher drama perished together.
Tracing rapidly the rise of the stage under Chris-
tianity, he showed how the moral and religious
teaching of the stage had been the vehicle for
conveying to the popular mind the truths of
religion, and used it as an engine for the overthrow
of the heathen gods and the establishment of
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genial and the ungenial. The stage has played
a small part in the history of civilization, and it
furnishes us with, perhaps, the best and most re-
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past ages, as well as affording us a standard of
their morality. From whatever standpoint we
look upon the stage, a critical review of
its rise and decadence must ever reveal to us
information as well as amusement, for its true
function has been to act as a mirror for humanity,
reflecting the noble deeds as well as the follies and
frailties of mankind. Mr. Dougherty apologized
for not taking up some other theme more instruc-
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score that the people came to be amused rather
than taught. After paying a handsome compli-
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bound us to the angels—a glimpse of the lost
Eden," he pointed out the antiquity of the stage
and its importance as an aid in educating the
masses at the dawn of civilization; that in the
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